

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205854 TOSEC 100281

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:SSOBER:LAB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

S/S -RKUCHEL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205854 TOSEC 100281

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, PFOR, SA, US

SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA

REFS.: JIDDA 6008, JIDDA 6009, STATE 205129 (TOSEC 100260)

PERSONAL FOR ATHERTON FROM SOBER

1. YOU WILL HAVE NOTED THE TWO JIDDA TELEGRAMS WHICH PLAY ON THE THEME THAT THE SAUDIS PRETEND TO SEE A NEW USG HARD LINE TOWARD THEM REFLECTED IN AKINS' FORTHCOMING DEPARTURE. I THINK WE CAN LOOK TO SOME CONTINUED REPORTING ON THIS THEME FROM JIDDA REFLECTING POSSIBLY SOME PERSONAL STRAINS AT OUR EMBASSY. BUT I BELIEVE WE MUST ASSUME THAT THE SAG IS GENUINELY CONCERNED THAT WE MAY BE BEGINNING A PROCESS OF TURNING AWAY FROM THEM.

2. ON THE SPECIFIC QUESTION OF OIL PRICES, YAMANI'S COMMENTS TO AKINS WERE INTERESTING. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER YAMANI MAY HAVE BEEN LEADING US ON, BUT WE SHOULD NOT IGNORE THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SAG ACTUALLY INTENDS TO

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FIGHT FOR KEEPING THE PRESENT LINE ON PRICES. A RECOMMENDA-

TION HAS JUST GONE TO THE SECRETARY (STATE REFTEL) PROPOSING  
A SCENARIO WHICH INCLUDES A PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO KING  
KHALID ON OIL PRICES. IF WE ARE TO BELIEVE YAMANI AND

ACCEPT AKINS' RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING THEIR TALK, THERE  
WOULD BE A CASE FOR MODIFYING THE PROPOSED LETTER TO  
KHALID.

3. MOST IMPORTANTLY, I BELIEVE WE NEED TO GET TO THE  
SAUDIS AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND IN A WAY THAT CAN BEST  
STEM THEIR CURRENT INCLINATION TO READ STRONG NEGATIVE  
POLITICAL SIGNALS INTO OUR FORTHCOMING CHANGE OF  
AMBASSADORS. OBVIOUSLY THE BEST WAY WOULD BE THROUGH A  
VISIT BY THE SECRETARY, SUCH AS HAS BEEN PLANNED, BEFORE  
HIS RETURN TO THE US FROM THE CURRENT SHUTTLE MISSION.  
I HOPE YOU WILL DO WHAT YOU CAN TO ASSURE THAT THAT VISIT  
ACTUALLY TAKES PLACE IF IT IS AT ALL POSSIBLE. THE  
SAUDIS NEED TO HEAR THE WORD DIRECTLY CONCERNING OUR  
INTENTIONS. A VISIT IN THE COMING DAYS WOULD ALSO  
PROVIDE A VERY TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE  
SECRETARY TO GET IN SOME GOOD WORDS ON OIL PRICES,  
WHETHER OR NOT THE PROPOSED PRESIDENTIAL LETTER IS SENT.  
INGERSOLL

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, NO HARD COPY, CAT-C  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 AUG 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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